

CALIFORNIA

1. Exchange Visitor Program for Teachers – The purpose of the Exchange Visitor Program is to promote cross-cultural exchanges, understanding and respect between California teachers and foreign teachers, professional growth opportunities for teachers of California and foreign countries, and interest in international studies and cross-cultural awareness.

The eligibility requirements for visiting teachers are documented in 22 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 62.24, formerly Section 514.24. Foreign nationals must first apply in their home country and receive an initial screening from the Ministry or Secretariat of Public Education and meet the California Commission on Teacher Credentials requirements. Visiting teachers may remain in a school district for a maximum of three years and then are expected to return to their home country to share their experiences.

There are limited "Post to Post" positions available in Spain for California teachers. Applications are made directly to the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain via the Embassy of Spain's Education Office. In "Post to Post" teacher exchanges, teachers from California remain employed, and continue to be paid, by their districts while teaching in Spain. Preference is given to California teachers who will teach English in a school in Spain, and to teachers from Spain who will teach Spanish in that teacher's California school. Teachers from Spain continue to receive their salary from the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain.

The U.S. Department of State authorized 350 exchange teachers for the CDE Exchange Visitor Program. CDE provides coordinating staff to work with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. embassies, and the education agencies of participating nations. The staff coordinates the teacher exchange programs with other countries through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each country. As part of the MOU, CDE staff:

- Pretest applicants' written and verbal English language proficiency
- Ensure that applicants are fully qualified and properly licensed in the academic and teaching requirements of their countries of origin
- Organize necessary documents for entry into the United States
- Assist California school districts in establishing effective processes for screening, selecting, contracting with, and credentialing exchange teachers with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC)

School districts must sign an agreement of collaboration with CDE to employ an exchange visitor.

2. Binational Program – The Binational Migrant Education Program is a bilateral program between Mexico and the United States. The Mexican Consulate and the MEIO share responsibilities. Activities support migrant students who travel between the two countries; teachers who participate in the three-year California Teacher Exchange Program; and teachers who participate in the Summer Session. A description of selected activities includes the following:
 - Binational Migrant Education Summer Session – The Binational Summer Program is a collaborative effort among the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, the Secretariats of Public Education of individual states in Mexico, the Mexican Consulates, MEIO in CDE, and participating Migrant Education Regions. As part of the program, teachers from Mexico spend six to eight weeks in a school district in California sharing culture and teaching strategies to support migrant students.

- **Transfer Document** – A transfer document issued by the Mexican Consulate ensures the enrollment of binational migrant students returning to Mexico's elementary and junior high schools after the start of the school year in Mexico. It also serves as a binational report card for binational migrant students. The document does not cover migrant students in grades 10 through 12 due to differences in high school administration within Mexico.
- **Free Textbook Distribution** – This program serves migrant families and children. Its purpose is to promote literacy in Spanish and provide supplemental instructional materials and texts used in public schools in Mexico.

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